

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-27 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-6, 11-13, 15-18, and 24-26 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

**Claim 24 is objected to** because of certain informalities.

Claim 24 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112**

**Claim 15 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

**Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-16, 24, and 27 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tang et al.* in view of *Roth et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to define a first annular outer metal and a first elastomer bushing engaging the first outer metal and the stabilizer bar. The Examiner has indicated that **Tang et al.** is being used to disclose a stabilizer bar assembly having most of the features of the instant invention and that **Roth et al.** is relied upon for the claimed particulars of Applicants' bushing. However, neither **Tang et al.** nor **Roth et al.** discloses the elastomeric bushing engaging the outer metal and the stabilizer bar. In **Tang et al.**, film layer 26 is disposed between the elastomeric bushing and the stabilizer bar. **Roth et al.** teaches an inner metal 28 that is designed to be attached to a portion of the suspension with a nut or a bolt and, thus, it does not teach or suggest the engagement between the elastomeric bushing and the stabilizer bar that is a portion of the automotive suspension. Couple this with the fact that **Tang et al.** teaches the reduced frictional engagement due to the friction film member (Abstract) in that the film layer 26 forms a slip layer at the interface between the stabilizer bar and the elastomeric member 24. Thus, there is no incentive, teaching nor suggestion to define the bar 38 as the stabilizer bar in **Tang et al.** **Tang et al.** teaches movement between the stabilizer bar and the elastomeric bushing, while **Roth et al.** teaches no movement between an inner metal designed to be attached to a suspension component and the bushing.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2-4, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7, as originally presented, defines an outer surface of the elastomer bushing being fixed to the inner surface of the outer metal and an inner surface of the

elastomeric bushing being fixed to the stabilizer bar. The above discussion of the inappropriateness of combining **Tang et al.** and **Ross et al.** discussed above also applies to this rejection.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 7, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 8-10, which ultimately depend from Claim 7, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been amended to define the elastomeric bushing as engaging the stabilizer bar. In addition, Claim 13 already defines the inner surface of the elastomeric bushing as being fixed to the stabilizer bar due to the prespecified percent of compression of the elastomeric bushing. The above discussion of the inappropriateness of combining **Tang et al.** and **Ross et al.** discussed above also applies to this rejection.

Thus, Applicants believes Claim 13, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 14-16, which ultimately depend from Claim 13, are believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 has been amended to define providing an interference fit directly between the stabilizer bar and the bushing and pressing the annular bushing directly between the stabilizer bar and the outer metal. The above discussion of the inappropriateness of combining **Tang et al.** and **Ross et al.** discussed above also applies to this rejection.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 24, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claim 27, which ultimately depends from Claim 24, is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

**Claims 18-23 are allowed; Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 25, and 25 are objected to** as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and are, thus, believed to be allowable.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from Claim 7. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 7 and are, thus, believed to be allowable.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from Claim 13. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 13 and are, thus, believed to be allowable.

Claims 25 and 26 depend from Claim 24. Claims 25 and 26 have been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 24 and are, thus, believed to be allowable.

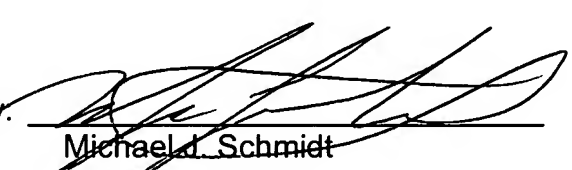
## CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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